

Agenda Item: 7-8B
Meeting Date: April 7 and 8, 2004
Revised: April 5, 2004

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION THAT IT PROCEED
WITH AWARDING WATERSHED COORDINATOR GRANTS**

Summary: This resolution would recommend that the Department of Conservation (DOC) proceed with awarding watershed coordinator grants. These grants will fund watershed coordinator positions throughout the CALFED Solution Area and will further the goals of the CALFED Watershed Program.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Authority adopt the attached Resolution 04-04-03.

Background

In 2000, the California Legislature approved a \$2 million pilot grant program to fund watershed coordinators for Resource Conservation Districts. The Department of Conservation was authorized to administer the program. State funding was approved for two years. The pilot program was highly successful and leveraged State funds at a ratio of 9:1. Quarterly reports from the current program have demonstrated that watershed coordinators are effective in facilitating collaboration, building consensus, obtaining project funding, and initiating watershed improvement projects. So far, CALFED funding has been leveraged at a ratio of 7:1. All of these accomplishments support the CALFED Watershed Program's overarching goal to restore ecological health and improve water management by working with local communities at a watershed level.

CALFED Watershed Program goals are to provide financial and technical assistance for watershed activities that help achieve the mission and objectives of CALFED, and promote collaboration and integration among community based watershed efforts. Collaborating with DOC through its Watershed Coordinator Grant Program will further these goals; therefore, it was decided that funding of the grant program should be continued using funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50). Funding was continued by amending

the existing Interagency Agreement between the Authority and DOC, and expanding the program to allow local government agencies and non-profit organizations to compete in the grant application process.

The new watershed grant program began last summer when the DOC conducted a series of five regional meetings to solicit input to formulate a program that is responsive to local needs. Over 170 representatives from different agencies and organizations attended and offered their comments, a number of which were incorporated into the grant program. DOC then circulated a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a 50-day period. DOC received 82 proposals, 68 of which met the minimum submittal requirements and were forwarded to the grant review committee.

The grant review committee consists of five representatives from Federal and State resource agencies and one representative from a non-profit organization. The committee members have varied resource backgrounds, but all are familiar with watershed issues and the CALFED Program. All qualified proposals were competitively scored using the following criteria: benefits to the watershed; work plan; performance measures; sustainability; support of CALFED goals; support of local watershed goals; partnering; cooperation; budget; and matching funds.

The Authority is being asked to recommend DOC it approve the awards per the committee's recommendations. The 2004 grant program will provide \$9 million for a three-year period, beginning spring 2004.

Fiscal Information

Funding Source: Proposition 50

Term: April 2004 through April 2007

Total Amount: \$9 million

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 - DOC Recommendations for Watershed Coordinator Funding

Attachment 2 - 2004 Watershed Coordinator Grant Program Map

Attachment 3 – Proposal Not Recommended for Funding (Supplemental Information)

Resolution 04-04-03

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